

EIC/S

DAD/RR

17 April 1957

EIC/S

Review of General Economic Analysis Subcommittee

1. As I have already indicated to you, a meeting to consider the role and functions of the EIC Subcommittee on General Economic Analysis (SEA) has been set up at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, 18 April 1957, in your office. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a and I plan to be in attendance. Otto has been notified and invited to participate.

2. A copy of our staff study of 14 November 1955 on "Proposed EIC Economic Intelligence Advisory Panel" is attached. Both Rush and I consider this paper an appropriate starting point for our discussion.

3. There have been no major changes since the staff study was written in the general nature or dimensions of the problems which the study was addressed to. No particular brief is held for the specific details of the Advisory Panel proposal, nor for the suggested membership and agenda subjects. The general thrust of the proposal, however, still seems to have validity.

4. There has been some increase in the volume of external research projects and exchange visits reviewed by the SEA in the last year or so. This should, of course, be considered in the review of the Subcommittee and its responsibilities.

5. In reviewing the SEA, the following (inter-related) subjects might well be touched upon:

A. The appropriate functions for a coordinating group in this field.

(1) Review of research and collection deficiencies.

(2) Review of substantive research in draft and in final form.

(3) Review of proposed external research projects. Note special problems involved in a meaningful review of Air Force CEIR external research projects.

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(4) Examination of research techniques.

(5) Discussion of important across-the-board economic intelligence subjects for the general enlightenment and education of people working in this field, and for other interested individuals including the administrative superiors of the interested analysts (According to [REDACTED] the primary purpose of the SEA in the minds of those who originally set it up.)

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(6) Coordination and, where appropriate, "agreement" of basic statistics.

(7) Review of exchange proposals

(8) Publication of coordinated reports, etc.

(9) Follow-up of NIE post-mortems.

B. Appropriate representation on the group.

(1) From within the Government.

(2) Outside consultants. (Consideration of problems involved in obtaining and using such consultants.)

(3) Question of varied representation depending on matters handled.

a. Use of consultants for special projects.

b. Use of consultants for periodic, regularly recurring projects such e.g. as review of the economic contributions to the annual NIEs on the Soviet Union, Communist China, and the European Satellites.

c. Bilateral State-CIA coordination

d. Use of ad hoc arrangements.

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C. Role of SEA (and EIC subcommittees generally) in the light of current exercise on coordination in response to recommendations of Killian committee.

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Principal Staff Economist

Attachment:

Proposed EIC Economic Intelligence
Advisory Panel